

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An image photographing apparatus for photographing a still image, comprising:

a scanning imaging device for generating image signals; and

control means for using the image signals generated by said imaging device to adjust the still image before photographing, said control means defining a detection area which is both vertically and horizontally limited within said imaging device and reading only the image signals within the detection area out of said imaging device, the read image signals being used to adjust the still image before photographing and a control period of said control means being set in correspondence within a read-out period of said detection area.

2. (original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means also controls said imaging device when the still image is being photographed.

3. (original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means determines a start position of the detection area and the amount of image signals to be read out within the detection area, and, accordingly, only the image signals within the detection area are read out of said imaging device.

4. (original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said control means allows a high-speed scan in a region before the start position of the detection area, allows a predetermined-speed scan in the detection area, and allows only the determined amount of image signals to be read out.

5. (original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, based on the read image signals, at least one of automatic focus control, automatic photographic sensitivity control, and automatic white balance control is performed.

6. (currently amended) An image photographing method for photographing a still image by a scanning imaging device for generating image signals, comprising the steps of:

when the image signals generated by the imaging device are used to adjust the still image before photographing:

defining, ~~by control means~~, a detection area which is both vertically and horizontally limited within the imaging device; and

reading, ~~by the control means~~, only the image signals within the detection area out of the imaging device; ~~and~~

adjusting, by using the read image signals, the still image before photographing;
and

establishing a control period as a function of a read-out period of said detection area.

7. (currently amended) An image photographing method according to Claim 6, wherein ~~the~~ a control means also controls the imaging device when the still image is being photographed.

8. (currently amended) An image photographing method according to Claim 6, wherein the reading step includes the step of allowing ~~the~~ a control means to determine a start position of the detection area and the amount of image signals to be read out within the detection area, so that only the image signals within the detection area are read out of the imaging device accordingly.

9. (currently amended) An image photographing method according to Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

allowing ~~the~~ a control means to perform a high-speed scan in a region before the start position of the detection area, to perform a predetermined-speed scan in the detection area, and to read out only the determined amount of image signals.

10. (original) An image photographing method according to Claim 6, wherein, based on the read image signals, at least one of automatic focus control, automatic photographic sensitivity control, and automatic white balance control is performed.

11. (new) An image photographing apparatus for photographing a still image, comprising:
a scanning imaging device for generating image signals; and
control means for using the image signals generated by said imaging device to adjust the still image before photographing, said control means defining a detection area within

said imaging device and reading only the image signals within the detection area out of said imaging device, the read image signals being used to adjust the still image before photographing;

wherein the control means controls at least two scan speeds with a first scan speed being used outside the detection area and a second scan speed being used within the detection area, the first scan speed being greater than the second scan speed, a predetermined value associated with a pulse counter being used by the control means for determining a switching point between speeds.

12. (new) The image photographing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control means controls said imaging device when the still image is being photographed.

13. (new) The image photographing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control means determines a start position of the detection area and the amount of image signals to be read out within the detection area, and only the image signals within the detection area are read out of said imaging device.

14. (new) The image photographing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said control means allows a high-speed scan in a region before the start position of the detection area, allows a predetermined-speed scan in the detection area, and allows only the determined amount of image signals to be read out.

15. (new) The image photographing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein, based on the read image signals, at least one of automatic focus control, automatic photographic sensitivity control, and automatic white balance control is performed.

16. (new) An image photographing method for photographing a still image by a scanning imaging device for generating image signals, comprising the steps of:

when the image signals generated by the imaging device are used to adjust the still image before photographing:

defining, by control means, a detection area within the imaging device;

reading, by the control means, only the image signals within the detection area out of the imaging device;

adjusting, by using the read image signals, the still image before photographing;

and

controlling at least two scan speeds with a first scan speed being used outside the detection area and a second scan speed being used within the detection area, the first scan speed being greater than the second scan speed, a predetermined value associated with a pulse counter being used by the control means for determining a switching point between speeds.

17. (new) The image photographing method according to Claim 16, wherein the control means also controls the imaging device when the still image is being photographed.

18. (new) The image photographing method according to Claim 16, wherein the reading step includes a step of allowing the control means to determine a start position of the detection area

and the amount of image signals to be read out within the detection area, so that only the image signals within the detection area are read out of the imaging device accordingly.

19. (new) The image photographing method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of:

allowing the control means to perform a high-speed scan in a region before the start position of the detection area, to perform a predetermined-speed scan in the detection area, and to read out only the determined amount of image signals.

20. (new) The image photographing method according to Claim 16, wherein, based on the read image signals, at least one of automatic focus control, automatic photographic sensitivity control, and automatic white balance control is performed.